

dalcantar); Wall. Ibis, 1865, p. 391; Selat. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 673; Ogilvie-Grant, P. Z. S. 1888, p. 199.

Reinwardtænas crassirostris, Salv. Orn. Pap. iii. p. 131.

Adult. Above, head dusky brown; occipital feathers lengthened into a greyish-brown crest; whole plumage slate-colour, darkest on the upper surface; three outer pairs of tail-feathers with a lavender central bar. Sexes alike.

Young. A young male (Guadalcanar, 'Voy. of Herald') in the British Museum, which is the type of the species, has the head dark brown, tipped with dark chestnut; the general plumage above of a much darker slate-colour; beneath dark brown, passing into the slate of the adult. Iris reddish brown; bill and legs carmine (*Woodford*). Iris and orbital skin carmine; bill and legs bright red.

Hab. Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands.

XXIII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 124.]

34. *Allen on the Genus Elainea*.

[Remarks on Individual and Seasonal Variation in a large Series of *Elainea* from Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil, with a Revision of the restricted Genus *Elainea*. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. ii. p. 183.]

The receipt of a fine series of Tyrants of the genus *Elainea* in Mr. H. H. Smith's extensive collection from Matto Grosso has induced Mr. Allen to take up this difficult subject. Drawing upon other sources besides, Mr. Allen accumulated about 400 specimens for comparison, and amongst them several important types.

Amongst the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Allen is that the concealed white crest of *Elainea* is merely a feature of the breeding-plumage in both sexes. This enables him to unite *Elainea mesoleuca* with *E. pagana*, as has been already suggested might have to be done, or rather with *E. albiceps*, which is treated as a subspecies of *E. pagana*. The other species of *Elainea* are noted and commented upon. As Mr. Salvin has now positively decided that his *Elainea*

arenarum = *Sublegatus glaber*, we do not see why Mr. Allen should demur to accepting this identification, in spite of the apparent dissimilarity of the two figures.

35. *Bocage on Birds new to the Island of St. Thomas, West Africa.*

[Sur deux espèces à ajouter à la Faune Ornithologique de St. Thomé. Par J. V. Barboza du Bocage. Journ. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa, 1889, p. 142.]

Prof. Barboza du Bocage adds two species to the avifauna of the West-African island of St. Thomas. One of these is *Euplectes aureus* (Gm.), also known from Benguela, and the other *Nectarinia thomensis*, a new species, peculiar to the island.

36. *Bartlett on Weavers and Finches.*

[A Monograph of the Weaver-birds (Ploceidæ) and Arboreal and Terrestrial Finches (Fringillidæ). By Edward Bartlett. Parts III.-V. 4to. Maidstone: 1889.]

We are glad to see that Mr. Edward Bartlett is making good progress with his illustrated work on the Weaver-birds and Finches. Three parts were issued in 1889. The drawings by Mr. F. W. Frohawk are in many instances very good, and the colouring is generally well executed.

The species figured in the three parts are the following:—

PART III., Jan. 1889.

<i>Munia fuscata.</i>	<i>Coccothraustes personatus.</i>
— <i>malacca.</i>	— <i>melanurus.</i>
<i>Phrygilus fruticeti.</i>	<i>Euplectes flammiceps.</i>
<i>Pyrhula erithacus.</i>	

PART IV., Aug. 1889.

<i>Malimbus malimbicus.</i>	<i>Pyrhula erythrocephala.</i>
— <i>cristatus.</i>	<i>Cardinalis phœniceus.</i>
<i>Munia atricapilla.</i>	<i>Phrygilus alaudinus.</i>
— <i>sumatrensis.</i>	

PART V., Nov. 1889.

Ploceus nigerrimus.	Munia ferruginosa.
—— castaneofuscus.	—— maja.
Paroaria dominicana.	—— pallida.
Munia minuta.	—— melæna.
—— brunneiceps.	—— forbesi.
—— formosana.	—— spectabilis.

37. *Chapman on Amazilia æneo-brunnea.*

[Further Note on *Amazilia æneo-brunnea*. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. ii. p. 182.]

Mr. Chapman has discovered that his *Amazilia æneo-brunnea* (*op. cit.* p. 163) is an “artefact,” composed of the body of *Chrysolampis moschita* and the head and neck of *Chlorostilbon hæberlini*.

38. *Hickson's 'Naturalist in North Celebes.'*

[A Naturalist in North Celebes, a Narrative of Travels in Minahassa, the Sangir and Talaut Islands, with Notices of the Fauna, Flora, and Ethnology of the districts visited. By Sydney J. Hickson. London: Murray, 1889.]

Mr. Hickson's principal object in visiting the Malay Archipelago was to study coral-reefs and their structure, for which purpose he selected Talisse Island, situated in the Straits of Banka, north of Celebes, as his principal residence. He also visited the Sangir and Talaut Islands, between Celebes and the Philippines, and made an excursion into Minahassa. Mr. Hickson naturally devoted his chief attention to marine animals, but gives an excellent chapter on the land-fauna of Talisse Island, and introduces other remarks about birds. Mr. Hickson is decidedly of opinion that the white-billed *Tanygnathus* of Celebes, which has been called *T. albirostris*, and is regarded by Mr. Wallace as “certainly distinct,” is only the hen of *T. muelleri* (*cf. op. cit.* p. 86). At Salibabu, one of the Talaut Islands, the brilliant little red and blue Lory, *Eos indica*, was found to be abundant, and numerous living specimens were obtained from the natives. Mr. Hickson observes that it is curious that this bird should be so

common in the Talaut Islands, comparatively rare in the neighbouring group of Sangir, and unknown in the Celebes.

39. *Kempen on Pallas's Sand-Grouse in Northern France.*

[Séjour des *Syrnhaptés* dans le Nord de la France en 1888. Par Ch. Van Kempen. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, xiii. p. 145, et xiv. p. 18.]

M. Kempen gives particulars of the occurrence of *Syrnhaptés paradoxus* at Dunkirk, St. Omer, and in other localities in the north of France, from May to December 1888.

40. *Lumholtz's Adventures in Queensland.*

[Among Cannibals: an account of Four Years' Travels in Australia and of Camp-Life with the Aborigines of Queensland. By Carl Lumholtz. London: Murray, 1889.]

It has been left to a Norwegian naturalist to give us the most graphic and entertaining account that has yet been written of the wilds of the English colony of Queensland and its native tribes. Mr. Lumholtz's narrative of his life and adventures in company with the blacks of the Herbert-River district will interest and instruct every one, and his pages are full of information on the animal and vegetable life of the country which he visited.

Many passages relate to the bird-life of Northern Queensland, where the avifauna has many peculiarities and possesses a strong Papuan element, as evidenced by the presence of the Cassowary and the Megapode. The playing-place of a rare Bower-bird (*Scenopæus denti-rostris*) was discovered (p. 139); the "monotonous and persistent chattering" of the "Towdala" (*Orthonyx spaldingi*) was listened to; the King-Pigeon (*Megaloprepia magnifica*) was found breeding (p. 214); and the beautiful Parrot, *Platycercus pulcherrimus*, was observed to excavate its nest in the hillocks raised by the Termites or white ants. Numerous other allusions to birds will be found in Mr. Lumholtz's pages, and the whole volume is well worthy of perusal for those who have any taste for natural history.

41. *Meyer on rare Paradise-birds.*

[Beschreibung der bisher unbekannten Weibchen von *Astrarchia stephanie* und *Epimachus macleayanae*. Von A. B. Meyer. J. f. O. 1889, p. 321.]

Dr. Meyer describes the hitherto unknown females of *Astrarchia stephanie* and *Epimachus macleayanae* from specimens obtained by Mr. Goodwin when in company with Sir William Macgregor on his recent expedition up the Owen-Stanley Mountains in South-eastern New Guinea*.

42. *Meyer and Helm's Report on the Ornithological Observing-Stations for Saxony for 1888.*

[IV. Jahresbericht (1888) der ornithologischen Beobachtungsstationen im Königreich Sachsen, bearbeitet von Dr. A. B. Meyer und von Dr. F. Helm. Abh. u. Bericht d. k. zool. u. anthropol.-ethnograph. Mus. Dresden, 1889.]

Of this report we wish only to repeat the terms of commendation which we had the pleasure of bestowing on the last of the same series (see *Ibis*, 1889, p. 120). The observers on the present occasion were 122 instead of 134 in number. The observations were made at 111 stations, and relate to 213 species. Nineteen of these are new to the Saxon list.

43. *Nicholson's Translation of Sundevall's 'Tentamen.'*

[Sundevall's *Tentamen*. [Methodi Naturalis Avium disponendarum *Tentamen*.] Translated into English, with Notes, by Francis Nicholson, F.Z.S. London: R. H. Porter, 1889.]

We cannot say that we think that there was any absolute necessity for a translation into English of Sundevall's well-known work. The most important parts of the '*Tentamen*' are given in Latin, and even Swedish itself is not a very difficult language for an educated Englishman. But we must nevertheless thank Mr. Nicholson for the pains he has taken in the production of the present volume, and agree

* Similar specimens were exhibited by Mr. Goodwin at the Meeting of the Zoological Society of London on November 19th last (see P. Z. S. 1889, p. 451). These were subsequently purchased by Mr. Seebohm and presented to the British Museum of Natural History.

with him in the desire that its issue may tend to familiarize ornithological students in this country with Sundevall's very important work.

Mr. Nicholson has added some appropriate footnotes to the translation, and has prefaced it with a portrait of the author and a notice of his life. Two appendices contain a summary of Sundevall's system and the outlines of two amended arrangements of the Accipitres and Thrushes, which were published subsequently to the 'Tentamen.'

44. *Ninni on the Venetian Long-tailed Titmouse.*

[Sulle recentissime opinioni intorno alle Specie Venete del Genere *Acredula*, breve note di A. P. Ninni. 8vo. Venezia: 1889.]

Sign. Ninni maintains, in contradiction to what is stated in the 'Inchiesta Ornitologica' (v. s. p. 114), that the prevalent form of *Acredula* in Venetia is *A. irbii*, not *A. rosea* nor *A. caudata*.

45. *Noll on Extinct Birds.*

[Die Veränderungen in der Vogelwelt im Laufe der Zeit. Von F. C. Noll. Bericht d. Senckenb. naturf. Gesell. Frankfurt am M. 1889, p. 77.]

A good popular essay on "the alterations of the Bird-world during the progress of time" was read by Dr. F. C. Noll at the Anniversary Meeting in 1888 of the Senckenbergian Society of Naturalists of Frankfort-on-the-Main, and is now published, with additions, in their 'Bericht.' It contains nothing novel. A useful list of the literature on the subject is appended.

46. *Oates's 'Birds of British India.'*

[The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for India. Edited by W. T. Blanford. Birds.—Vol. I. By Eugene W. Oates. London: Taylor and Francis. 1889.]

More than twenty-five years have now elapsed since Jerdon's well-known 'Handbook of Indian Birds' was completed. This is a long period for the progress of modern

science, and it was quite time that another book on the avifauna of British India should be written to take its place. No one will dispute the sagacity of Mr. Blanford in selecting the well-known author of the 'Birds of British Burmah' to undertake this arduous task, of which the first instalment is now before us.

Three volumes only have been allowed for the portion of the 'Fauna of British India' relating to the Birds. As the number of species added to the list since Jerdon's time has been increased "by more than one half," this will make it rather a "tight fit," we should say. But after our friend Mr. Howard Saunders has performed the feat of compressing the birds of Great Britain into a single volume, Mr. Oates may well hope to be able to get through his task in three.

In the present volume Mr. Oates treats of the first half of the Passeres, and gives an account of the Corvidæ, Crateropodidæ, Sittidæ, Dicruridæ, Certhiidæ, Regulidæ, Sylviidæ, Laniidæ, Oriolidæ, Eulabetidæ, and Sturnidæ belonging to the Indian avifauna.

The Passeres and their subdivisions are discussed in some preliminary remarks, but the scheme of general classification of Birds to be adopted is postponed pending the complete elaboration of Mr. Seebohm's new 'Systema Avium.' Mr. Oates shortly defines the Passeres as having the "deep plantar tendons passerine; the palate ægithognathous." The first part of this definition is not, we think, very successful, as the plantar tendons of the "Passeres" must necessarily be "Passerine," but the peculiar structure of these tendons is subsequently clearly explained.

As regards the difficult question of the arrangement of the Acromyodian Passeres, Mr. Oates proceeds by dividing off the Dicæidæ as possessing a serrated mandible, and the Alaudidæ as having a scutellated tarsus. The remaining families then fall into two groups, according as they have nine or ten primaries. While these characters and others subsequently mentioned seem to answer well for the purpose of forming an analytical key, we must say that the result arrived at by their aid is not a very natural classification.

For example, we do not think the Dicuridæ are well placed between the Sittidæ and Certhiidæ or the Hirundinidæ between the Ploceidæ and Fringillidæ. We are also a little surprised to find the Paridæ placed in the same family as the Corvidæ, though we fully admit that there is something to be said in favour of the affinities of these two groups. But the fact is that the Acromyodian Passeres are all so closely allied that the exact arrangement to be adopted is a matter of comparatively little moment.

As regards the general execution of the work, we think that Mr. Oates deserves the greatest credit for the labour and pains he has bestowed upon it. The descriptions are nicely written and concise, and the accounts of the distribution and habits well drawn up. The woodcuts and keys to the species add greatly to the value of the book, which will be of the utmost value to the progress of Indian ornithology.

The following generic terms appear to be used for the first time :—

1. *Scaerhynchus*, fam. Corvidæ : type *Paradoxornis ruficeps*, Blyth.

2. *Thringorhina*, fam. Crateropodidæ : type *Turdinus guttatus*, Tickell.

3. *Rhopocichla*, fam. Crateropodidæ : type *Brachypteryx atriceps*, Jerdon.

4. *Sittiparus*, fam. Crateropodidæ : type *Minla cinerea*, Blyth.

5. *Lioparus*, fam. Crateropodidæ : type *Proparus chrysæus*, Hodgson.

6. *Hilarocichla*, fam. Crateropodidæ : type *Pteruthius rufiventer*, Blyth.

7. *Alophoiscus*, fam. Crateropodidæ : type *Ixos phæcephalus*, Hartlaub.

8. *Xanthiscus*, fam. Crateropodidæ : type *Pycnonotus flavescens*, Blyth.

9. *Dissemurulus*, fam. Dicuridæ : type *Dicrurus lophorinus*, Vieill.

10. *Elachura*, fam. Certhiidæ : type *Troglodytes punctatus*, Blyth.

11. *Agropsar*, fam. Sturnidæ : type *Gracula sturnina*, Pallas.

We may remark that *Sittiparus* has been already used by Selys-Longchamps for a genus of Paridæ. See Bull. Soc. Zool. France, ix. p. 58 (1884).

47. Oates's '*Matabele-land*.' (Second edition.)

[Matabele-land and the Victoria Falls, a Naturalist's Wanderings in the Interior of South Africa, from the Letters and Journals of the late Frank Oates, F.R.G.S. Edited by C. G. Oates. Second edition. London: French & Co., 1889.]

We noticed in 1882 the first edition of this interesting account of the journeyings of the late Frank Oates, who died of fever in Matabele-land in 1875 (see *Ibis*, 1882, p. 109). The unsold copies of the first edition having been destroyed by fire at the publishers, Mr. C. G. Oates has prepared a second, to which certain ameliorations and additions have been made. In his essay on the birds collected by Frank Oates, Mr. Sharpe, as we are informed in the preface, has "reconstructed the classification of the species on what he conceives to be a sounder basis, has brought the nomenclature up to date, and has made some necessary revisions."

48. Pleske's '*Ornithographia Rossica*.'

[*Ornithographia Rossica*. Die Vogelfauna des Russischen Reichs von Th. Pleske. Band II. Lief. 2. Laubsänger (*Phylloscopus*). 4to. St. Pétersbourg: 1889.]

The second part of this important work, of which we have already spoken (see *Ibis*, 1889, p. 566), is now before us. It contains an account of the *Phylloscopi* of the Russian Empire, which are numerous, and form a highly characteristic group of the Palæarctic avifauna. Mr. Pleske recognizes 17 species, and divides them into three subgenera—*Acanthopneuste*, *Phylloscopus*, and *Reguloides*.

The single plate contains figures of the following species:—*Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *borealis*, var. *xanthodryas*; *P.* (*Acanthopneuste*) *nitidus*; *P.* (*Acanthopneuste*) *viridanus*;

P. (Acanthopneuste) plumbeitarsus ; *P. (Acanthopneuste) tenellipes* ; *P. (Acanthopneuste) occipitalis* (2 figs.).

49. *Pleske on the Birds of Prjevalski's Journeys in Central Asia.*

[Wissenschaftliche Resultate der von N. M. Przewalski nach Central-Asien unternommenen Reisen. Auf Kosten einer von seiner kaiserlichen Hoheit dem Grossfürsten thronfolger Nikolai Alexandrowitsch gespendeten summe herausgegeben von der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften—Zoologischer Theil. Band II., Vögel. Bearbeitet von Th. Pleske. Lief. I. Folio. St. Petersburg: 1889.]

We are much pleased to find that a complete account of the valuable zoological results of Prjevalski's expeditions into Central Asia has been planned and commenced. It will be issued by the I. Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, at the cost of the Crown Prince Nicholas, who could hardly have devoted his means to a more worthy object. The second volume, devoted to the birds, is being prepared by Herr Th. Pleske, who is in charge of the Bird-Collection of the Academy's Museum, and the first livraison is now before us.

The present number commences with the Turdoid Passeres, and treats of the genera *Turdus*, *Cinclus*, *Saxicola*, *Ruticilla*, and their allies. The text is in Russian and German, in parallel columns, and is thus accessible to the whole civilized world. Detailed lists are given of the specimens of each species obtained by Prjevalski. The following species are figured in this part :—

Plate I. : *Pratincola insignis*, *Callope tschebaiewi*, and *Dumeticola major*.

Plate III. : *Arundinax ædon*, *Herbivocula armandi*, *H. indica*, *H. fuscata*, and *H. affinis*.

50. *Ridgway on the Genus Xiphocolaptes.*

[A Review of the Genus *Xiphocolaptes* of Lesson. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xii. p. 1.]

Twelve species and subspecies of this giant genus of the Dendrocolaptidæ are admitted as valid in Mr. Ridgway's

essay, and amongst them *Xiphocolaptes sclateri*, of Mexico, *X. virgatus* (locality unknown), *X. ignotus*, from Ecuador (?), *X. cinnamomeus*, from Eastern Brazil, and *X. major castaneus*, from Bolivia, are described as new. We may perhaps venture to question the advisability of founding new species of this excessively difficult group upon single specimens from uncertain localities.

51. Ridgway on the Genus *Sclerurus*.

[A Review of the Genus *Sclerurus* of Swainson. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xii. p. 21.]

Mr. Ridgway reviews the members of this somewhat difficult genus of Dendrocolaptidæ, and recognizes 9 species. He describes as new *S. canigularis*, from Costa Rica, and *S. lawrencii*, from "Bahia," but "locality probably erroneous." He also resuscitates *S. fuscus*, from the "Upper Amazon" (= *Tinactor fuscus*, Max., part.), but it is difficult to understand how Pr. Max.'s type can have come from such a locality.

52. Ridgway on Birds from Galapagos.

[Scientific Results of Explorations of the U.S. Fish-Commission Steamer 'Albatross.'—I. Birds collected on the Galapagos Islands in 1888. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xii. p. 101.]

In April 1888 the U.S. Fish-Commission s.s. 'Albatross' visited the Galapagos Islands, and the naturalist of the Expedition, Prof. Leslie A. Lee, assisted by Mr. Charles H. Townsend and Mr. Thomas Lee, made a very interesting collection of birds there, which, we are told, "would have been more extensive had not other duties more closely connected with the objects of the cruise prevented." Be this as it may, examples of 47 species were actually obtained, out of 69 now known to inhabit the group, and of these several are new to science. Besides this two islands were visited upon which no previous collections had been formed, and considerable additions have been made to our knowledge of the exact localities of the Galapagan species, so that Prof. Lee and his

assistants have accomplished a most meritorious piece of work, of which Mr. Ridgway now gives us the results.

The new species described are :—*Nesomimus macdonaldi*, from Hood I. ; *N. personatus*, from Abingdon I. ; *Geospiza conirostris* and *G. media*, from Hood I. ; *Cactornis brevirostris*, from Chatham I. ; *C. hypoleuca* (if not *C. pallida*, Sel. et Salv.), from James I. ; *Camarhynchus townsendi*, from Charles I. ; *C. pauper*, from Charles I. ; *Pyrocephalus minimus*, from Chatham I. Besides these the form of *Pæcilonetta bahamensis* of the Galapagos is separated as *P. galapagoensis*. The Galapagan *Mimi* are constituted a new genus, *Nesomimus*, distinguished by their longer and more compressed bill and longer tarsus. Two specimens of the rare Gull *Creagrurus furcatus*, an adult male and an adult female in perfect summer plumage, were obtained on Dalrymple Rock, Chatham I., and are fully described by Mr. Ridgway. A table, showing the different islands of the group in which the 69 species now known to occur in the Galapagos have been found, is added, and is followed by lists of the species met with on each island. "It is very evident," says Mr. Ridgway in his concluding remarks, with which we quite agree, "that the avifauna of the Galapagos is by no means yet exhausted as a field for promising research in the problem of derivative origin of species." Albemarle Island, the largest of the group, is still almost untouched, two others (Wenman and Culpepper) have not been explored at all, whilst "it can safely be said that on none of the islands has anything like a thorough investigation yet been made."

53. *Salvadori on Additions to Papuan Ornithology.*

[Aggiunte alla Ornitologia della Papuasias e delle Molucche. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Parte prima: *Accipitres, Psittaci, Picariæ*. 4to. Torino: 1889.]

Seven years are past since the third and last volume of Count Salvadori's 'Ornitologia della Papuasias e delle Molucche' was published. The author now proposes to issue a supplement to his former excellent piece of work, in order to bring our knowledge of the subject up to the present period. Of

this supplement, the present part, now before us, contains an account of the recent contributions made to our knowledge of the Rapaces, Parrots, and Picarians of the Papuan Sub-region. The additional species are 35 in number, amongst which four receive new names, namely, *Urospizias polionotus*, from Timor-laut, *Cacomantis arfakianus*, from New Guinea, *Lamprococcyx poliurus*, from Taraway I., and *Tanysiptera meyeri*, from New Guinea.

54. *Salvadori on Pallas's Sand-Grouse in Italy.*

[Le ultime notizie intorno al Sirratte in Italia negli anni 1888 e 1889, raccolte da Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. Mus. Anat. Comp. Torino, vol. iv. no. 70.]

This is a second supplement to Count Salvadori's account of the occurrences of Pallas's Sand-Grouse in Italy in 1888 and 1889. We have already noticed the original paper (see Ibis, 1889, p. 130) and the first supplement (*op. cit.* p. 391). Some of the few survivors of the invasion were met with in the first three months of 1889, since when nothing more has been heard of them. Count Salvadori appends to this paper a very convenient tabular statement of all the Italian occurrences.

55. *Saunders's 'Manual of British Birds.'*

[An Illustrated Manual of British Birds. By Howard Saunders. Parts XVI.-XX. 8vo. London: 1889.]

Our former colleague's 'Manual of British Birds' is now complete, and the author has retired to the continent for a short period to enjoy a better climate and well-earned repose. The compact volume thus quickly elaborated has met with universal and well-merited approval. The first number was issued on April 1st, 1888, and the twentieth and last on Nov. 1st, 1889. The birds considered by the author, in this last authority on the subject, to be entitled to be called "British" are 367 in number, exclusive of several doubtful forms on which opinions differ. The species ascertained to have bred within the United Kingdom during the present century are, as we

are informed in the preface, about 200 in number. Seventy more are "non-breeding wanderers" which have occurred fewer than six times, and 59 others "more or less infrequent visitors," while 38 annually make their appearance on migration or during the colder months.

We are much pleased to hear that Mr. Howard Saunders has it in contemplation to prepare another volume, containing a similar condensed account of such European species of birds as are not yet known to occur in the British Islands.

56. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Water-Birds.*

[Contributions to the Comparative Osteology of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Water-Birds. Part IV. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Anat. & Physiol. xxiii. p. 537.]

Dr. Shufeldt continues his studies on the osteology of the Arctic and Subarctic Water-birds (*cf.* Ibis, 1889, p. 568). He now discusses the Auklets (*Ceratorhyncha*, *Ptychorhamphus*, *Simorhynchus*, &c.), of which, however, he has failed to secure a good series for examination, except in the case of *Simorhynchus*. He describes the skeletons of *Simorhynchus pusillus*, *S. cristatellus*, and *Cyclorhynchus psittaculus*, and makes various remarks as to their resemblances.

57. *Shufeldt on the Macrochires.*

[Studies of the Macrochires, Morphological and otherwise, with the view of indicating their Relationships and defining their several Positions in the System. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Linn. Soc. (Zoology) xx. p. 299.]

This long and elaborate memoir contains a mine of wealth in the way of observations, and, as is always the case in Dr. Shufeldt's papers, is excellently illustrated, but is, perhaps, deficient in definite conclusions. The author harps upon his old theme of the distinctness of the Swifts and Humming-birds. He now, however, we are pleased to see, withdraws from his former position that the Swifts should be arranged among the Passeres, near the Swallows, and proposes to form them into an Order of themselves under the title "Cypseli," to be placed "just outside the enormous

Passerine circle." The "Trochili," as already suggested, should form a separate order, as he is now more than ever convinced. In the skeleton of the Trogons Dr. Shufeldt finds nothing "that in any way points to their being related, even remotely, to the Caprimulgi."

58. *Shufeldt on the Herons.*

[Osteological Studies of the Subfamily Ardeinæ. Parts I. & II. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Comp. Med. & Surg. x. pp. 218, 287.]

In these two articles Dr. Shufeldt discusses the osteological characters of *Ardea* and its near allies. The woodcut illustrations are of the usual excellence. At the conclusion the chief points are summarized in a series of twenty-six definite statements.

59. *Smith on the Birds of Lake Brunner District, New Zealand.*

[On the Birds of Lake Brunner District. By W. W. Smith. Trans. New-Zealand Inst. xxi. p. 205.]

Mr. W. W. Smith gives us some very nice field-notes on the birds of the district of Lake Brunner, Grey County, on the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand, where "the bush still remains in its primeval state, and many of the anomalous and more specialized forms, now extinct east of the Alps, enjoy in it a fairly genial home." Among the species still to be met with here are *Stringops habroptilus*, *Nestor meridionalis*, *Orthonyx ochrocephala*, *Xenicus longipes*, and *Creadion carunculatus*, while *Apteryx australis* "exists in considerable numbers in the bush round the Lake." But the new "Midland Railway is now being pushed on through the valley, so that many of these rare forms will very shortly disappear."